

Thirsk Rural District Council

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Public Health Inspector
for the year
1959



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THIRSK

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
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THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman:

Lt. Col. M.C.W.P. Consett, J.P.

(Ex-officio Member of Health Committee)

Vice Chairman:

A.H. Gill,

(Chairman of Health Committee)

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Member: Brigadier J.F. Walker, J.P., (Vice-Chairman)
B. Bosomworth,
T.E. Clarke,
P. Fletcher,
J.D. Gill,
L.M. Greensit,
T.M. Jopling,
C.J. Megson,
G.W. Peacock,
M. Sanderson,
W. Spence,
W.B. Stonehouse,

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. Gray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

R. M. Sharphouse, C.S.I.B., A.I.Hsg.,

Additional Public Health Inspector:

A. N. Errington, C.S.I.B., (Cert. Meat & Other Foods)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1959.

To: the Chairman and Members of Thirsk Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present for your consideration my first Annual Report on the health of the district. Although appointed as your Medical Officer of Health in 1959 the district has been under my care for County Council Health services for several years. During that time enormous progress has been made in housing and the clearance of slums. The reorganisation of schools required by the 1944 Act has resulted in the erection of one of the finest schools in the North and this improvement is to continue. The whole township has been sewered and proper works installed, and it is probably true to say that progress in the last 10 years equals all previous improvements.

Yet much remains to be done in the sanitary field. The water supply is in need of major overhaul. In these days one hears the term "affluent society" used to describe our way of life. Many of our inhabitants live in houses which, whilst not sufficiently bad to represent as slums lack those amenities which are taken for granted in these times. One hopes that the Annual Report for 1970 will record all the hopes now held as actually achieved.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GRAY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Area of district	71,544 Acres
Estimated population Mid 1959...	13,570
Number of Houses - Privately owned ...	3,259
Council	616
Crown Property ...	243
Rateable Value	£146,183
Product of a Penny Rate...	£597
Live Births..	263
Birth Rate/1,000 population	19.4
Corrected Birth Rate	20.9 (Correction factor 1.08)
Illegitimate Live Births were 14 representing 5.3% of total Live Births.	
Still Births - 6. Rate/1,000 Live and Still Births - 22.3.	
Total Live and Still Births	269
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)..	5
<u>Infant Mortality Rates.</u>	
Total infant deaths/1,000 Live Births.	19.0
Legitimate infant deaths/1,000 Legitimate Live Births...	20.1
Illegitimate infant deaths/1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	Nil
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per	
1,000 total Live Births)	10.8
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per	
1,000 total Live Births)	3.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under	
1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	26.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate/1,000 Live and Still Births	Nil
<u>Deaths -</u> Male Female Total	
	74 63 137
Crude death rate/1,000 population.	10.1
Corrected death rate (Factor 1.01)	10.2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and par. diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm - stomach	1	2
11. " " - lung, bronchus	1	2
12. " " - breast	-	5
13. " " - uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	9	11
18. Coronary diseases, angina	14	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
20. Other heart diseases	18	12
21. Other circulatory diseases	5	3
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	1	-
24. Bronchitis	3	3
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34. All other accidents	1	1
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
TOTAL		74
		63

Notifiable Diseases.

Measles was prevalent again with 125 cases notified, but only 13 cases of Whooping Cough were found.

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	7 cases
Pneumonia..	...	...	6 cases
Dysentery..	...	...	5 cases

Food Poisoning, Ophthalmia neonatorum and Puerperal Pyrexia 1 case each.

There were two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis but there were no deaths due to this disease. It is hoped to have the Mass Miniature Radiograph Unit each year in the district; for the convenience of the out-lying villages this will be arranged on Market Day.

Vaccination and Immunisation - Figures relating to the Bulmer Area comprising Thirsk, Easingwold, Flaxton and Wath R.D's.

Total population	54,680.	Total Live Births	962
Primary Vaccination against Smallpox during the year	479		
Immunised against Whooping Cough	427		
Immunised against Diphtheria (primary course)	662		
Immunised against Diphtheria (booster dose)	328		

At the year end 8,268 persons have received 3 injections against Poliomyelitis.

Whilst figures are not ascertained relating to individual districts in the area there is no reason to suppose that the proportion of children immunised differs to any great extent from the whole area.

Immunisations against all the above diseases are carried out at sessions of the Mobile and static clinics detailed later and by general practitioners. Owing to the large demand for poliomyelitis vaccination since the inception of the scheme in 1956 it has been my practise to arrange special sessions at regular intervals at the Ambulance Station in Thirsk - mainly on Monday afternoons for the convenience of those people who are able or accustomed to visit Thirsk on Market Days.

The response has been excellent - so much so that new linoleum had to be provided for the Office floor at the Ambulance Station.

Water Supplies.

1959 proved to be a sad one from this point of view. The prolonged drought caused serious depletion of supplies, whilst the inadequacy of mains caused further difficulties. To add to the plight of the district, serious contamination of the water in the mains was discovered in July and owing to the major works required to put the defects in the system right the boiling order placed on the water continues into 1960. These defects to water supply led to early arrangements being made for a regrouping of water supplies to be carried out but at the year end little real progress had been made in the direction of producing concrete results.

A new system was completed in the year for the supply of chlorinated water to the village of Knayton but the dry summer affected the quantity of water available.

Sewerage - Virtually no progress has been made during the year in extending the area properly served by sewer and works.

County Council Health Services in the Area.

Ambulance Service - at Castlegarth - Telephone Thirsk 2234. After 10 p.m. the station is not manned but ambulance can be obtained by telephoning Northallerton 446.

Nursing Services.

+ Sinderby, Holme, Pickhill, Ainderby Quernhow.	Nurse Lockhart, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., 1, North House Lane, Baldersby.	Tel. Melmerby 66
Thirsk, Sowerby, N. & S. Kilvington, Sutton, Thornborough, Hood Grange, Balk, Thirkleby, Bagby, Thirlby, Osgoodby, Brawith, Cowesby, Kepwick, Upsall, Boltby, Kirby Knowle, Felixkirk, Thornton-le-Street, Thornton-le-Moor, Newby Wiske, N. & S. Otterington, Maunby, Kirby Wiske, Newsham, Sandhutton, Carlton Miniott.	Nurse Bradley, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 19, Victoria Avenue, Sowerby, Thirsk. Nurse Deighton, S.R.N., S.C.M., 1, Mowbray Houses, Carlton Miniott. (double district)	Tel. Thirsk 2133 Tel. Thirsk 3296
+ Langthorpe, Ellenthorpe, Milby, Kirby Hill, Humberton, Sessay, Hutton Sessay, Thornton Bridge, Fawdington.	Nurse Halliday, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Hillside, Asenby.	Tel. Topcliffe 335

Topcliffe, Catton, Dalton,
Skipton, Eldmire.

Nurse Dickenson,
S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.,
34, East Lea,
Topcliffe.

Tel.
Topcliffe 316

+ Kilburn, Birdforth.

Nurse Batty,
S.R.N., S.C.M.,
Home Farm Cottage,
Newburgh.

Tel.
Coxwold 223

+ Also Health Visitors for the area including School Nursing.

A full time Health Visitor, Miss Sanders, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., of
Borrowby, Telephone Upsall 262, carries out duty including School Nursing
in the Nursing area served by Nurses Bradley and Deighton.

Domestic Help Service.

Assistance in all cases of illness and confinement is available.
The standard charge is 3/-d. per hour but where financial circumstances
warrant it assessment according to means can be made.

Enquiries should be made to the appropriate District Nurse or
Health Visitor or at the Area Health Office, Manor Road, Easingwold.

Infant Welfare Centres.

Knayton Village Institute - 1st Tuesday in each month at 2 p.m.
South Otterington (Mobile Clinic) - Tuesday every 4 weeks at 2 p.m.
Topcliffe R.A.F. Station
(Mobile Clinic) - Mondays fortnightly at 2 p.m.
Thirsk - Thirsk & Sowerby Institute - Thursdays fortnightly at 2 p.m.

Voluntary Care Committee.

Supported by County Council funds assists other than by monetary grants
cases of hardship due to mental or physical disease.

Secretary, Mr. E.T. Goodrick, Area Health Office, Manor Road, Easingwold.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1959.

To: the Chairman and Members of Thirsk Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present the 1959 Annual Report, which includes the work done by the late Mr. Metcalfe up to the time of his retirement at the end of March.

My appointment as Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor took place after more than 24 years on the Council Staff and I can therefore claim a wide knowledge of the district.

A general improvement in all matters appertaining to environmental hygiene has taken place since the War, though it should be admitted that it has been largely due to the desire of individuals to better their own living conditions. The Council's improvement of the services for which it is responsible, housing, water supplies, public cleansing, and particularly sewerage, has been a necessary background to this progress, but it is necessary to look at an accurate cross section of present day housing conditions in villages still awaiting sewerage schemes to see what remains to be done.

Of 375 houses surveyed in 8 villages in different parts of the area the following results were found:-

- (a) 4% could be written off as not being worth improving,
- (b) 33% were in some respect below the minimum standard of amenity and repair laid down by the Housing Act,
- (c) 29% were without flush closets,
- (d) 34% had no bathrooms.

In Thirsk and Sowerby, apart from the houses condemned or scheduled for action, practically all have now water closets, and it is of interest to note that whereas in 1936 some 229 properties in the town were served by middens or ash pits only 4 remain at the present time.

At the year end the Council owned 616 houses, compared with 149 in 1939. This represents 15% of the total number of houses in the district, an increase which is reflected in the decreasing number of private landlords.

My appreciation is recorded of the services of Mr. Errington and the Council's clerical staff, also friendly co-operation with The Rivers Board Inspector, The Area Planning Officer, and Officials of the Fire Prevention Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. M. SHARPHOUSE,

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor.

WATER.

The larger part of the area, including Thirsk township itself, is supplied by the Thirsk District Water Company. The Council is the statutory water undertaker for the remainder of the district, though the small villages of Howe, Upsall and part of Kepwick rely on 'parish' supplies.

The Water Company water is mixed 'upland surface' and spring supply, with a total hardness of 103 parts per million (moderately hard). The Council takes some of its supply 'in bulk' from the Water Company, and has also deep bores at Kirby Hill and Pickhill, and a spring supply at Knayton.

The areas worst affected by the shortages referred to by the Medical Officer were Sessay, Dalton, Topcliffe, Islebeck, Knayton and Thornton-le-Moor, though the 4" main laid from the Easingwold supply at Carlton Husthwaite to connect to the existing main pipes at Sessay slightly improved matters in the Southern part of the district. Some relief was afforded to dairy herds by conveying water in tanks.

The unsatisfactory spring supply at Kilburn was put out of use during the year and the village supplied from the Easingwold mains.

During the year, 76 water samples, of which 30 were unsatisfactory, were collected from public supplies, bacteriological examination being carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton.

HOUSING.

Steady progress has been maintained in dealing with unfit dwellings, either by demolition or re-conditioning, though action by the Council under the Housing Acts has largely been confined to villages with sewerage schemes.

Re-housing from condemned properties is mainly dependant on the availability of new houses, and the 36 completed on the Norby Estate helped considerably towards the final solution of the Slum Clearance problem.

A total of 458 houses has been built by the Council since the War, an average of 33 houses per year. Private enterprise housing indirectly alleviates the housing situation and a year by year record of building is given below:-

Houses constructed after 1945.

	<u>By Local Authority.</u>	<u>By Private Enterprise.</u>
1946	22	3
1947	20	23
1948	54	10
1949	26	19
1950	8	4
1951	14	4
1952	36	1
1953	38	28
1954	74	6
1955	37	18
1956	4	7
1957	64	17
1958	20	20
1959	36	23
TOTAL	453	183

At the year end there were 61 families awaiting re-housing and despite grants it is apparent that many owners of old houses are not prepared to embark on costly re-conditioning schemes, and many slum dwellers will have to wait until the Council can provide alternative accommodation.

Towards the year end the Council agreed to deal with Piper Lane as a Clearance Area, a preliminary step to clearing the one remaining large group of bad dwellings.

A tabular statement showing the results of action in regard to unfit houses is given below. This statement is compiled from the return (Form P.13 (Hsg.)) which is submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

A. Houses Demolished.

In Clearance Areas	Houses Demolished	Displacements	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ,... ..	14	35	12
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc..	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
Not in Clearance Areas			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957..	-	7	2
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health...	-	-	-
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts...	-	-	-
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders.	-	-	-
<u>B. Unfit Houses Closed.</u>	Number		
(8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	10	20	7
(9) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	2	-	-

C. Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by local authority..	60	-
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	-	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957..	-	-
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957.. ...	-	-

In July the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959, came into force and made it a duty of local authorities to give 'Standard Grants' for the provision of five specified amenities. The Council, however, also continued to offer 'Discretionary Grants' up to a maximum of £250 per dwelling.

The following table shows grants approved, and comparison with previous years:-

Discretionary (Improvement) Grants.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. Approved	1	3	18	69	45	48	59	36
Amount of grant	£288	£602	£4,772	£15,586	£10,085	£10,974	£13,098	£8,097

[Note: of the 36 schemes approved during the year 18 were for owner/occupied houses]

Standard Grants.

There were 22 applications approved for the provision of the following amenities:-

Internal Water Closets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Baths...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Wash-basins...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Hot Water Systems...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Foodstores ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

FOOD HYGIENE.

The inspection and supervision of foodstuffs has been treated as an important aspect of Public Health work, and during the year a survey of all premises concerned, apart from public houses, was carried out with a view to having them improved to accepted standards of construction, though the vital factor in preventing contamination is undoubtedly care on the part of individuals concerned with food production. The Council supported the Central Council for Health Education by subscription during the year.

The number of premises in this area concerned with the preparation, treatment or storage of food is as follows:-

Grocers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Green Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fried Fish Shops..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cafes.	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Licenced Premises.	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Slaughterhouses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ice-Cream Manufacturers.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Market Stalls (Approx.).	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Mobile Shops (Approx.)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Poultry Processing Factories..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	136
Number of premises found not to comply	...	...	...	...	...	33
Number of defects...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	...	25
Exemption Certificates issued:- Wash-hand basins..						4
Facilities for washing food	...	...	...	...	...	3

MEAT INSPECTION.

For all practical purposes a 100% inspection service has been carried out. Details and results of inspection are shown in tabular form.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Slaughtered	676	-	1	1126	532	-
No. Inspected	676	-	1	1126	532	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	33	-	-	7	-	-
Percentage diseased other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	4.87	-	-	.71	-	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	.59	-	-	-	.18	-
Cystiscercosis:						
No evidence found.						

Weight of unsound meat voluntarily surrendered - 5 cwts. 109 lbs.

Weight of tinned foods " " - 3 cwts. 67 lbs. 12 ozs.

From a 12 month period commencing 2nd November, the Council was required by the Ministry to submit a report on slaughtering facilities in the area, but despite repeated approaches to the butchers only one satisfactory proposal for a slaughterhouse improvement had been received by the year end.

There are 11 licenced slaughterhouses in the area.

An unusual parasitic condition (sarcosporidia) was found in timed cooked ham, though the disease appeared to be peculiar to one particular brand imported from Germany. 7 tins of the ham of a total weight of 101lbs. were voluntarily surrendered. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Health.

ICE-CREAM.

The Council has a duty to keep a register of premises manufacturing or selling ice-cream.

There is only one manufacturer in the area, where the ice-cream is produced by the 'hot-mix' method.

There are also 27 vendors of pre-packed ice-cream.

MILK.

The Milk supplied in the area is a bottled designated milk, chiefly produced outside the area and delivered daily by lorry to the respective dealers premises, the empty bottles being returned for cleansing.

18 Dealers Licences were issued for the sale of designated milk, namely:-

Pasteurised 9; Tuberculin Tested 9.

POULTRY PROCESSING.

The poultry factory has continued to expand, and is unique insofar as it is not only by far the largest food business in the area but also sends its products out of the area for sale.

The implications as regards public health arising from this new industry are not yet fully understood, but the matter is receiving attention by the experts at the present time.

Sufficient to say that the Council is fortunate in that this particular factory pays proper attention to food hygiene matters in constructional alteration and extension, though the disposal of the drainage effluent has caused no little trouble for some time.

SEWERAGE.

Apart from small extensions of the main sewerage scheme in the villages of South Kilvington and Carlton Miniott to bring in a further 23 houses no material progress has been made during the year.

The present state as regards sewerage schemes is as follows, though the parishes already sewered as shown in column one include over half the total population of the area:-

With Satisfactory Schemes.

Thirsk
Sowerby,
Carlton Miniott
Sandhutton
Kilvington
Catton
Howe
Kirby Knowle

Without Satisfactory Schemes.

Ainderby Quernhow
Bagby
Balk
Birdforth
Boltby
Cowesby
Dalton
Felixkirk
Holme
Hutton Sessay
Kepwick
Kilburn
Kirby Hill
Kirby Wiske
Knayton-with-Brawith
Langthorpe
Maunby
Milby
Newby Wiske
Newsham-with-Breckenbrough
Norton-le-Clay
Pickhill-with-Roxby
Sessay
Sinderby
Skipton
South Otterington
Sutton-under-Whitestonecliffe
Thirkleby
Thirlby
Thornton Bridge
Thornton-le-Moor
Thornton-le-Street
Topcliffe
Upsall

General housing improvement and the installation of water closets in the villages is rapidly increasing the number of septic tanks, which are not only an unnecessary expense for owners and a burden on the scavenging rate, but invariably add to stream or subsoil pollution.

Many of the old sewage tanks in the villages are now becoming badly overloaded, and gross pollution of streams and rivers is taking place. Villages worst affected are Bagby, Langthorpe, Topcliffe, Pickhill, Sinderby and Kilburn.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The service offered by the Council is as good as could possibly be carried with present-day methods. Dustbins are collected weekly from their usual standing position and emptied into closed vehicles, though some authorities require householders to carry the bin to the garden gate for collection.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping, and a workman with a mechanical digger is employed full-time levelling and covering the rubbish.

The Council is fortunate to have a disused quarry in a central position for tipping purposes and though it is within 100 yards of a large housing estate no complaint of smell or vermin has been received.

As tipping as a means of disposing of refuse will have to be resorted to for some years to come the useful capacity of the present central tip should be conserved, and use made of outlying tips if available.

Unfortunately there are still many houses without water carriage systems, and it is estimated about 200 houses in the area use pail closets and a further 204 are served by the even more objectionable middens or ashpits.

The Council's vehicles at the year end used mainly for refuse collection were as follows, an average of 16 drivers and loaders being employed on this work:-

2 Shelvoke & Drewry 'fore-and-aft' tippers

1 Austin Side-Loader (10 cub. yard)

1 Dennis Side-Loader (10 cub. yard)

1 Dennis 800 gall. Cesspool Emptyer (pails and septic tanks)

The litter problem received much publicity, both nationally and locally. Thirsk Market Place and the streets radiating therefrom were, as would be expected, the worst affected.

The positioning of large dustbin type receptacles bearing Anti-litter posters in salient positions around the Market Place appeared to help matters, and the Council agreed to leave the provision of smaller bins attached to lamp posts, etc., to a commercial firm.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Thirsk appears to be a favourite stopping place for long-distance coach parties, and one suspects that, even allowing for the natural charm of the place, its comparatively modern public lavatories are also something of an attraction. Some 160,738 people passed through the turnstiles in 1959.

Several complaints, often by letter from afar, of unpleasant conditions found by patrons serves to draw attention to the fact that the method of employing joint part-time attendants with regular times of attendance is a far from satisfactory system.

MORTUARY.

The register shows that 13 bodies in all were accommodated during the twelve months.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No case of bed bug infestations was brought to light, and one hopes that such vermin are things of the past. A Council house from which a tenant was evicted was found to be badly infested with fleas, but even such conditions are a rarity.

The odd complaint of cockroaches was effectively dealt with by the Rodent Operator using modern insecticidal powder.

FACTORIES ACTS.

Briefly the Council is responsible for general health provisions in factories without mechanical power, and for sanitary accommodation only in factories with mechanical power.

The particulars required by the Ministry are given on the prescribed form overleaf.

There are 82 factories on the register, of which 14 come with scope of Section 34 of the Act and require 'Certificates as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire'.

Two Certificates were issued during the year, after receiving advice from the North Riding Fire Department and all premises concerned have now certificates in force.

1.- Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written notices	Prosecutions
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	29	4	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	22	5	-
iii. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total ..	82	26	5	-

2.- Cases in which defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	-	-	-
Total ..	5	5	-	-	-

PETS ACT.

One person is registered under this Act.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Three licences authorising the use of caravans were issued during the year, two being in respect of vans occupied by persons awaiting completion of new houses.

There were, however, signs towards the latter part of the year that the use of caravans as permanent dwellings was on the increase, despite the Council's policy in regarding such dwellings as a very sub-standard form of housing.

The Council considered the suggestion by the County Council that a local authority site for holiday caravans be provided, but decided that such amenities could be left to private enterprise.

At the year end there were three private sites available, two of which were occupied by less than 5 vans.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employs one part-time Rodent Operator in the carrying out of surveys, and undertakes treatment of rat and mice infestations when requested, domestic premises being done without charge. It is, however, quite impossible to make frequent checks of farms in view of the large number and distances involved.

During the year a total of 2,644 visits to premises were made, classified as:-

Local Authority 722; Business 299; Agricultural 191 and Private Properties 1,432.

298 infestations were dealt with, of which 43 were classified as major.

Refuse tips, sewage works and other Council properties have had regular inspection and treatment.

Twice yearly test baiting of the sewers in accordance with Ministry instructions were carried out in Thirsk, Sowerby, South Kilvington, Carlton Miniott and Sandhutton, also of sewers and sewer outfalls in other parts of the area.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no public swimming bath within the area.

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"	20.	Pets Act, Moveable Dwellings, Rodent Control.
